

Examiner Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Akiyoshi Onda on 04/23/2010.

Please amend the claim as follows:

Please replace claims 9 and 10 with the following:

Claim 9: A video game method which displays a character in a video game on a monitor and in which the operation of the character is controlled by a processor, comprising machine implemented steps of:

- (a) storing running commentary terminology used while the video game is in progress;
- (b) performing play-by-play or commentary relating to the video game using the running commentary terminology, the play-by-play or commentary including various phrases, the phrases being collected as a first phrase group, the phrase of the first phrase group including the running commentary terminology, the play-by-play or commentary being performed with the phrases collected as the first phrase group;
- (c) interrupting phrase of the first phrase group running on the step (b) when specific events have occurred while the video game is in progress;
- (d) performing the play-by-play or the commentary relating to specific events when the

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step (c) has been executed, the play-by-play or commentary including various phrases, the phrases being collected as a second phrase group, the phrase of the second phrase group including the running commentary terminology, the play-by-play or commentary being performed with the phrases collected as the second phrase group;

(e) returning from the phrase of the second phrase group performing on the step (d) to the phrase of an interruption point in the first phrase group interrupted on the step (b) when the specific events have occurred; and continuing the play-by-play or the commentary, the play-by-play or commentary being performed with the phrase of the first phrase group on the basis of running commentary terminology which is included in the phrase of the interruption point in the first phrase group interrupted by the step (c), when the step (e) has been executed.

Claim 10: A non-transitory computer readable medium storing a computer program for a video game which displays a character on a monitor, the computer program comprising:

code for storing running commentary terminology;

code for performing a first commentary relating to the video game by using the running commentary terminology, when a first event occurs while the video game is in progress, the first commentary including a first commentary group having various phrases, the first commentary being performed with the phrases of the first phrase group;

code for interrupting phrase of the first phrase group, when a second event occurs while the video game is in progress;

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code for performing a second commentary relating to the second events after interrupting the first commentary, the second commentary including a second commentary group having various phrases, the second commentary being performed with the phrases of the second phrase group;

code for returning from the phrase of the second phrase group to the phrase of an interruption point in the first phrase group, when the specific events have occurred;

code for performing the first commentary from an interruption point where the first commentary is interrupted, after the retuning from the phrase of the second phrase group to the interruption point.

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's invention is designed to be used in a video game system where during the game play commentary is synchronized accordingly, even during the interruption of game play within the video game commentary is diverted then the commentary goes back to the point where it was left, just like a live game play commentary.

2. the prior art of record specifically Mirasaki et al (2001/0006909) and Matsuzaki JP 10-211359 fails to teach or suggest the limitations below in combination with the other limitations recited in the independent claims:

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“a running commentary returning function for returning from the phrase of the second phrase group performing on the second running commentary function to the phrase of an interruption point in the first phrase group interrupted on the process of the running commentary interrupting function when the specific events have occurred; and

a running commentary continuing function for continuing the play-by-play or commentary, the play-by-play or commentary being performed with the phrase of the first group on the basis of running commentary terminology which is included in the phrase of the interruption point in the first phrase group interrupted by the running commentary interrupting function, when the process of the running commentary returning function has been executed.”

In other words the commentary is returned or continues at the interrupted point of the first phrase group of the commentary after the commentary for the interruption event is executed on the second phrase group.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MASUD AHMED whose telephone number is (571)270-1315. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 10:00am-7:00pm, Alt Fri, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571 272 4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 3714

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